

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 13-16, 29 and 30 are presently pending. Claims 8-10, 12 and 17-28 have been canceled by the present amendment. Claim 11 was canceled previously. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 13, 14 and 16 have been amended. Claims 29 and 30 have been added.

The Office Action indicates claims 1, 2 and 7 are allowed.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks appearing below, which Applicant believes places the application in condition for allowance.

Summary of Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include a semicolon at the end of clause (b) for consistent punctuation. Claim 3 has been amended to change its dependency from canceled claim 28 to allowed claim 2. Claim 4 has been amended to provide proper antecedent agreement with claim 3 from which it depends. Claims 6, 13, 14 and 16 have been amended to change their dependencies from canceled claim 26 to allowed claim 1. Claims 29 and 30 have been added so as to depend from dependent claim 6. Claim 29 adds a limitation that the beamsplitter of claim 6 has a cylindrical configuration. Claim 30 adds a limitation that the axes of curvature of the at least one converging element of claim 1 and the axis of curvature of the cylindrical beamsplitter of claim 29 are orthogonal to one another. Support for claims 29 and 30 may be found in the current application, e.g., in paragraphs [0032] and [0033] and FIG. 4.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 6, 8, 9, 12-15 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. More particularly, the Office Action states that independent claim 26 recites a limitation that is not supported by the current application, nor U.S. Patent No. 6,262,841 that is incorporated into the current application by reference. The Office Action further states that since claims 6, 8, 9 and 12-15 depend from claim 26, they inherit the deficiency of claim 26.

Applicant has canceled independent claim 26, canceled dependent claims 8, 9 and 12, and amended remaining ones of the claims so that dependent claims 6 and 13-15 now ultimately

depend from allowed claim 1. Therefore, the present rejection is moot. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6, 13 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,572,363 to Ferguson. The Office Action states that Ferguson discloses a system for projecting a real floating image into free space that contains all of the limitations of claims 6, 13 and 26.

Applicant has canceled independent claim 26 and amended claims 6 and 13 so as to depend from allowed claim 1. Therefore, the present rejection is moot. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the present anticipation rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 8, 9, 12-15, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of the Tanaka et al. and Hoppe patents or, alternatively, the Tanaka et al. and Hoppe patents further in view of the Broer et al. reference, stating that Tanaka et al. disclose all of the limitations of these claims except for a broadband reflector-polarizer. The Examiner then states that Hoppe or, alternatively, Hoppe and Broer et al. disclose the missing limitation and asserts that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the Tanaka et al. optical system with a broadband reflector-polarizer as disclosed by Hoppe or Hoppe and Broer et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

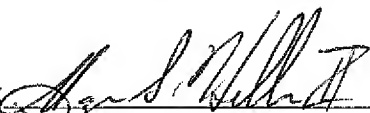
Applicant has canceled independent claim 26, canceled dependent claims 8, 9 and 12, and amended remaining ones of the claims so that dependent claims 6 and 13-15 now ultimately depend from allowed claim 1. Therefore, the present rejection is moot. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, 13-16, 29 and 30, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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